

Hanford firefighters met the challenge

Martha Rice, *Fluor Hanford*

To benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, four Hanford firefighters took on the challenge of climbing 69 floors of the Bank of America Building in Seattle (1,311 steps) while wearing full bunker gear and using self-contained breathing apparatus.

For the March 17 event, they joined nearly 700 other firefighters from around the country, representing 116 fire departments.

All four Hanford firefighters made it to the top with very impressive times. They competed as a team, but three of the four were also eligible to compete as individuals in the "over-40" bracket.

Hanford's John Castona completed the climb in 15 minutes, 57 seconds, ending up 10th in the over-40 group and number 55 overall. Jim Vanhorn, another of the over-40 set, finished in 18 minutes, 57 seconds, coming in 37th in the over-40 group. Scott Simard crossed the line in 21 minutes, one second, finishing 49th in the over-40 group.

The "youngster" of the four, Tom Nelson, completed his climb in 19 minutes, 40 seconds. "It was very challenging," Nelson said, "and by the time I got to the 50th floor, I asked myself why was I doing this. Then I figured if the New York firefighters could do it, so could I."

There is still time for Hanford employees to donate pledges of support for our "iron men" to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Send your tax-deductible donations to me, Martha Rice, S3-97, before April 4. Make checks payable to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society Firefighter Challenge.

As Vanhorn said, "Even if it's just a few dollars, it helps." ■



Hanford firefighters (from left) Scott Simard, John Castona, Jim Vanhorn and Tom Nelson climbed steps of the 69-floor Bank of America Building in Seattle to raise money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.